

MASTER OF
KUNG FU™

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

**SHOWDOWN
WITH
KOGAR!**



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

TWO RIVERS

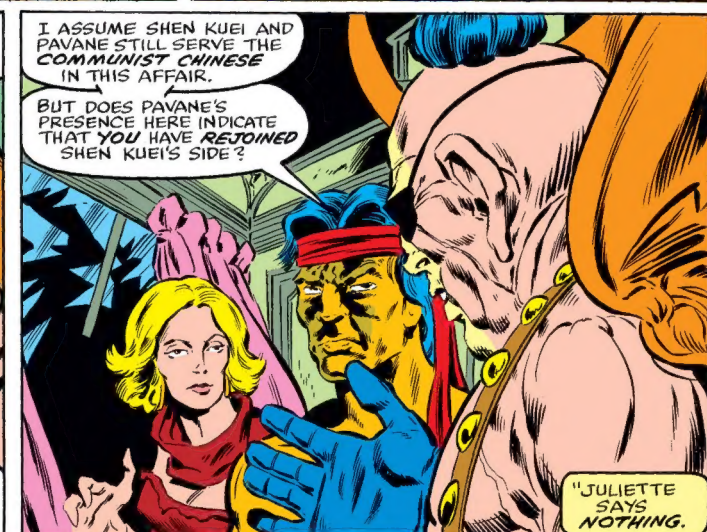
"ALL CALM IS SHATTERED AS RUSHING, SWARMING MEN FILL THE ROOM: THE SMUGGLERS LED BY KOGAR--AND IN THEIR COMPANY...TARR ?!"

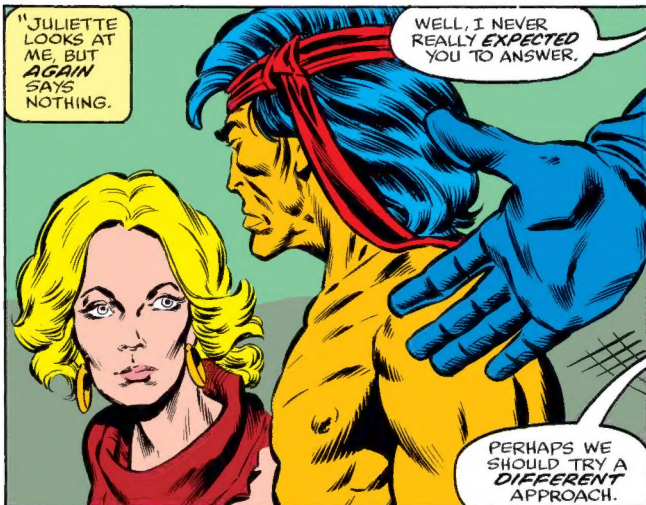
I HAVE COME FOR THE GOODS YOU HAVE FAILED TO DELIVER, SELFISHLY KEEPING THEM FOR YOURSELF--AND I WILL HAVE THEM, NO MATTER WHO PROTECTS YOU.

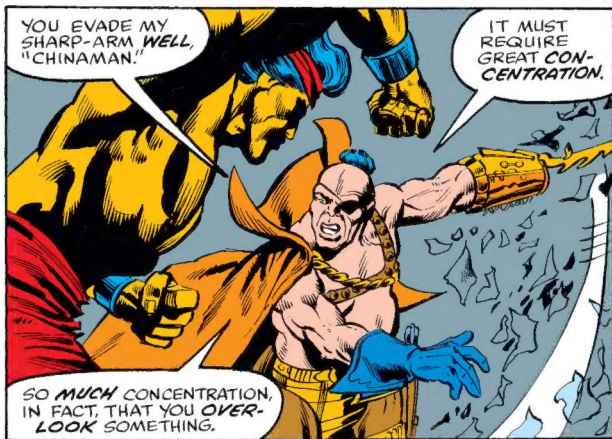
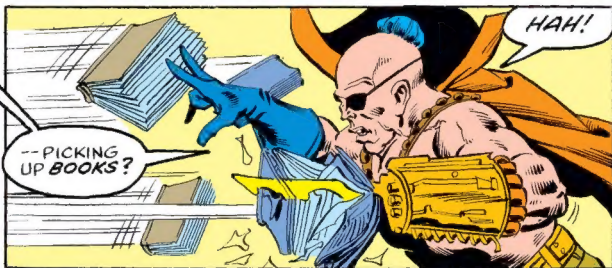
AH, JULIETTE, MY FORMER ALLY, I SEE YOU HAVE FOUND A PRO-TECTOR. BUT NO MATTER...

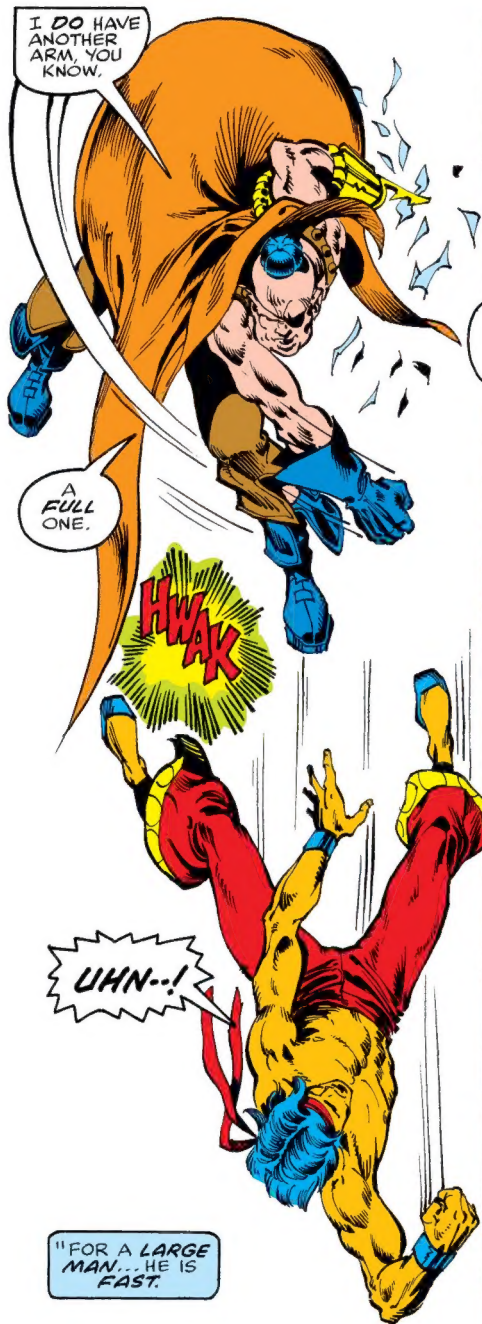
HEE HEE HEE!

DOUG MOENCH / JIM CRAIG & MIKE ZECK / M. HANDS / J. ROSEN / F. MOULY / T. SHOOTER
WRITER PENCILERS INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR





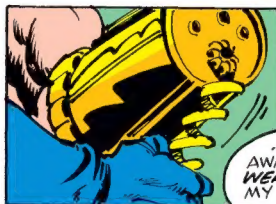
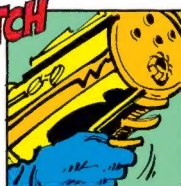




"AND FOR A MANIPULATOR OF WORDS... HE SPEAKS WELL TO THE BLUNT POINT: I HAD OVERLOOKED IT."



AND NOW, SINCE MY BLADE HAS PROVEN SO DULL-WITTED AGAINST YOU...





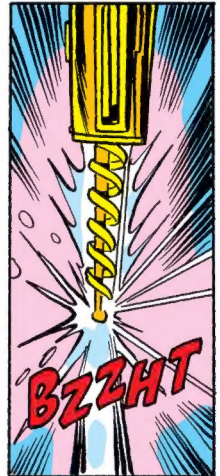
QUICKLY-- JULIETTE SAID WE MUST REACH THE HOUSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



NOW, "CHINAMAN," BEFORE ATTACKING AGAIN--



--I ADVISE YOU TO THINK TWICE.



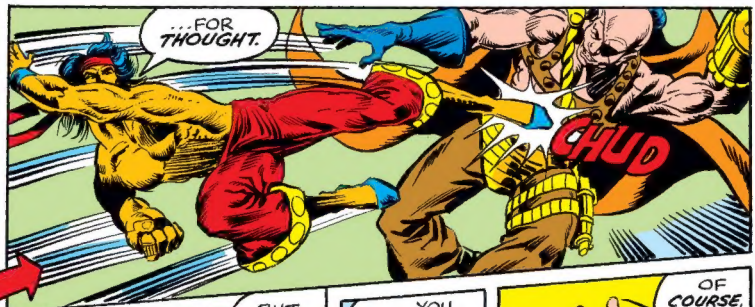
BZZHT



NO, THANK YOU, KOGAR...

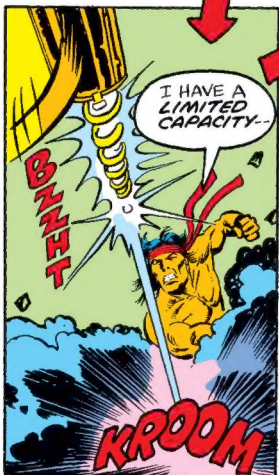
...OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

KROOM



...FOR THOUGHT.

CHUD



I HAVE A LIMITED CAPACITY--

BZZHT

KROOM



BUT AMPLE CAPACITY FOR INSOLENCE.

QUICKLY, MEN-- KOGAR IS HURT!



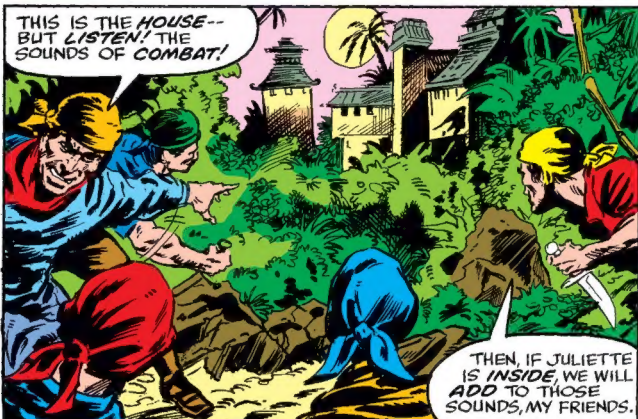
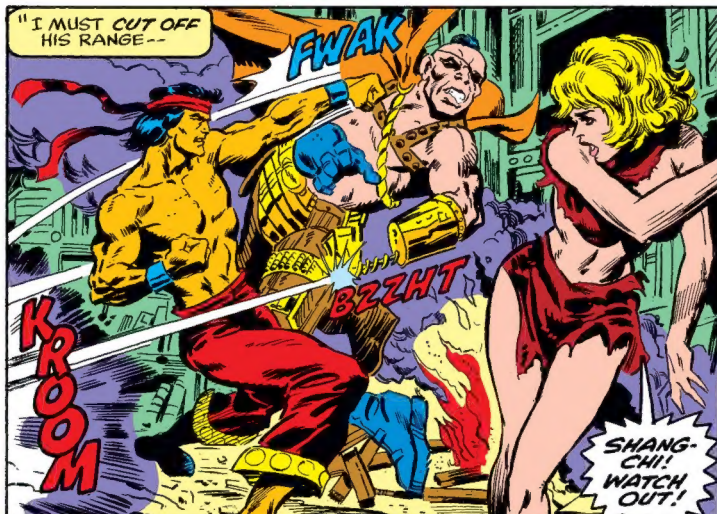
YOU DARE SKLAR?

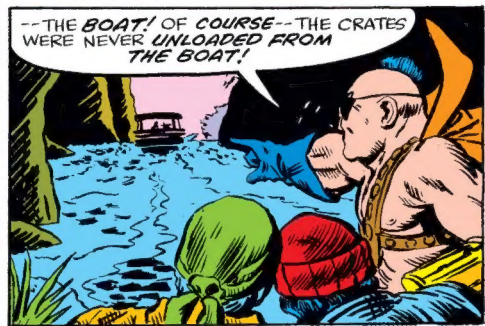
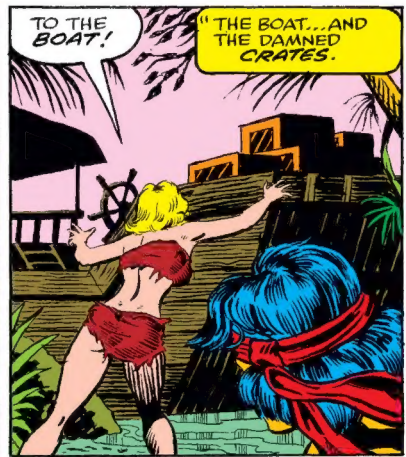
DID YOU NOT HEAR ME BEFORE?

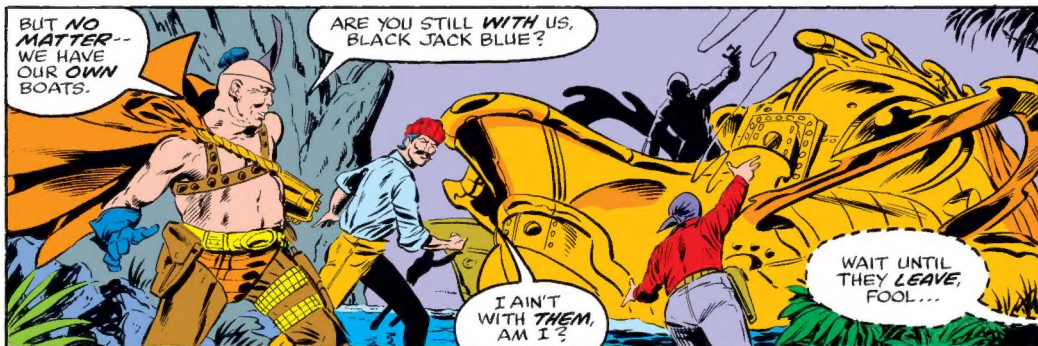


OF COURSE, KOGAR.

STAY BACK MEN!





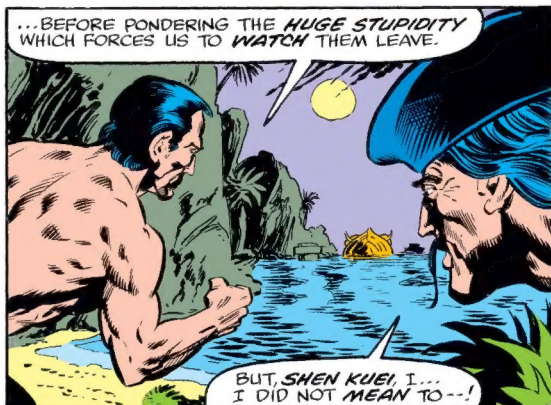


BUT **NO** MATTER-- WE HAVE OUR **OWN** BOATS.

ARE YOU STILL **WITH** US, BLACK JACK BLUE?

I AIN'T WITH **THEM**, AM I?

WAIT UNTIL THEY **LEAVE**, FOOL...



...BEFORE PONDERING THE **HUGE STUPIDITY** WHICH FORCES US TO **WATCH** THEM LEAVE.

BUT, **SHEN KUEI**, I... I DID NOT MEAN TO--!

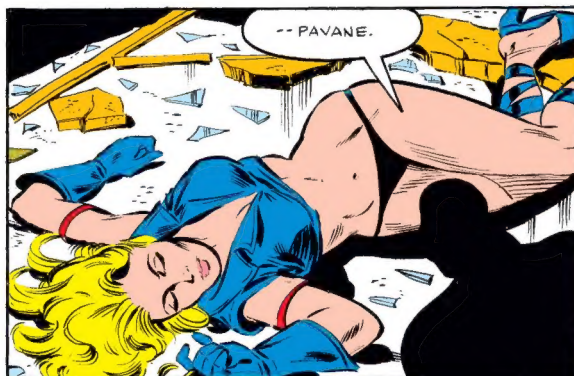


SILENCE, SO-CALLED "SKULLCRUSHER!"

FIND A **BOAT**.

FAST.

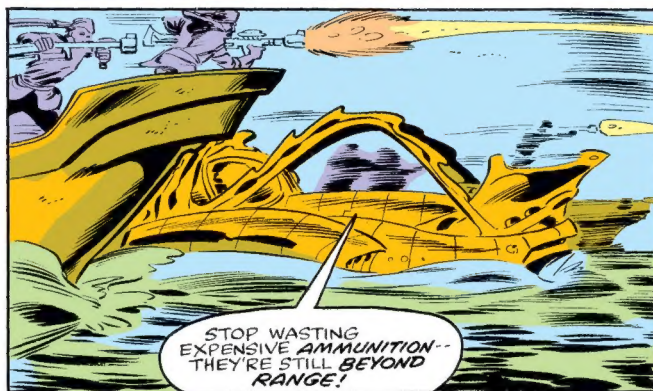
I WILL WAIT **HERE**-- WITH--



-- PAVANE.



I **PROMISE** YOU, PAVANE, THEY WILL **PAY** FOR THIS.



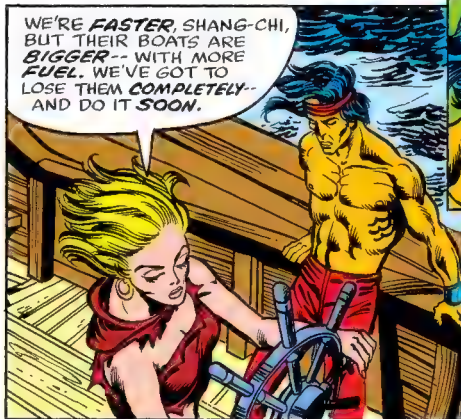
STOP WASTING **EXPENSIVE AMMUNITION**-- THEY'RE STILL **BEYOND RANGE**!



YEAH-- LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE **OUTDISTANCING** US, TOO.

AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D LIKE **NOTHING BETTER**.

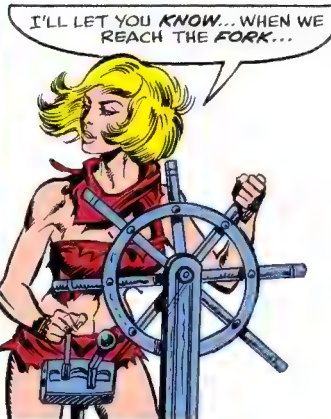
BUT WE SHALL **CATCH** THEM, BLACK JACK BLUE... IN THE **END**.



WE'RE **FASTER**, SHANG-CHI, BUT THEIR BOATS ARE **BIGGER**-- WITH MORE **FUEL**. WE'VE GOT TO LOSE THEM **COMPLETELY**-- AND DO IT **SOON**.



CAN WE?



I'LL LET YOU **KNOW**... WHEN WE REACH THE **FORK**...

... IF WE REACH IT.



NOW WHAT, MR. SECRET AGENT **RESTON**?

EASY, MELISSA-- YOU WANTED **EXCITEMENT**.



SO JUST KEEP **MOVING**. WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF **MI-6** BEFORE THOSE **PHONEY** POLICE CATCH US.

BUT IF THEY WEREN'T **REAL** POLICE--

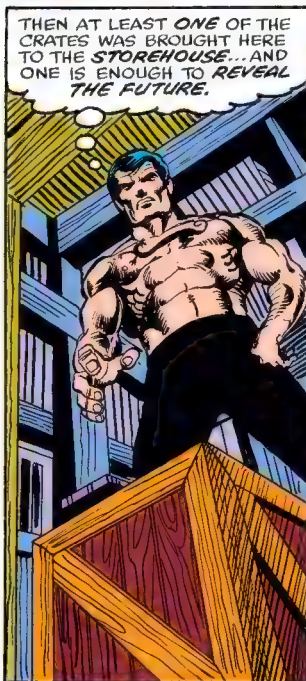


--WHO **WERE** THEY?

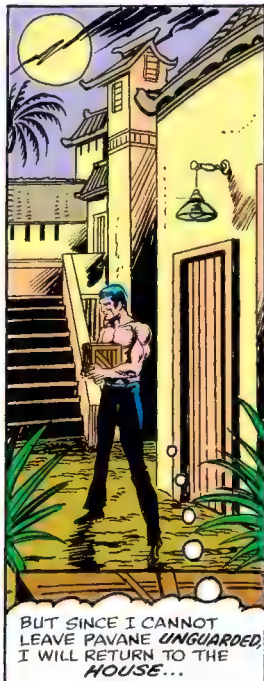
WE'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE REACH **MI-6**--

-- IF WE REACH IT.

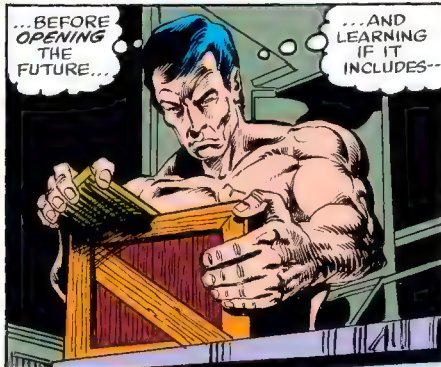
NOW LET'S HIT THIS **ALLEY**, SHALL WE?



THEN AT LEAST **ONE** OF THE CRATES WAS BROUGHT HERE TO THE **STOREHOUSE**... AND ONE IS ENOUGH TO **REVEAL** THE **FUTURE**.



BUT SINCE I CANNOT LEAVE **PAYANE** **UNGUARDED**, I WILL RETURN TO THE **HOUSE**...



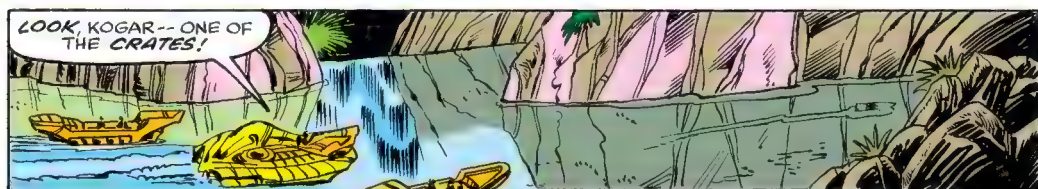
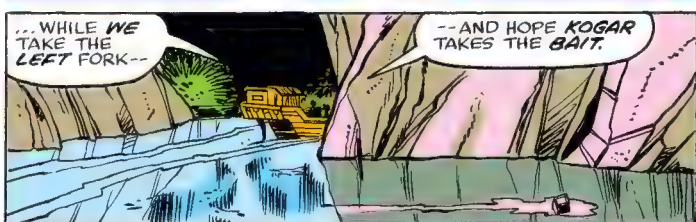
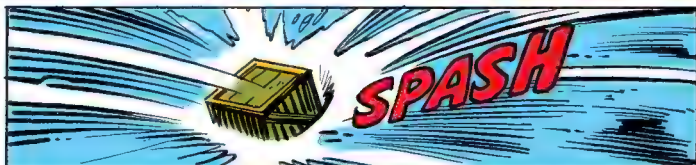
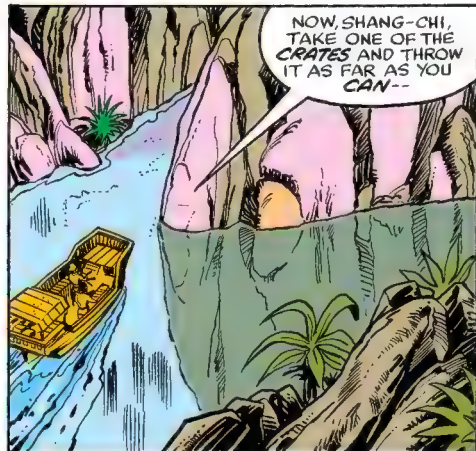
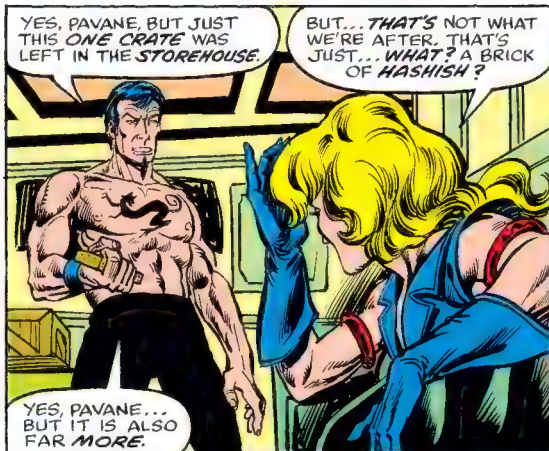
... BEFORE **OPENING** THE **FUTURE**...

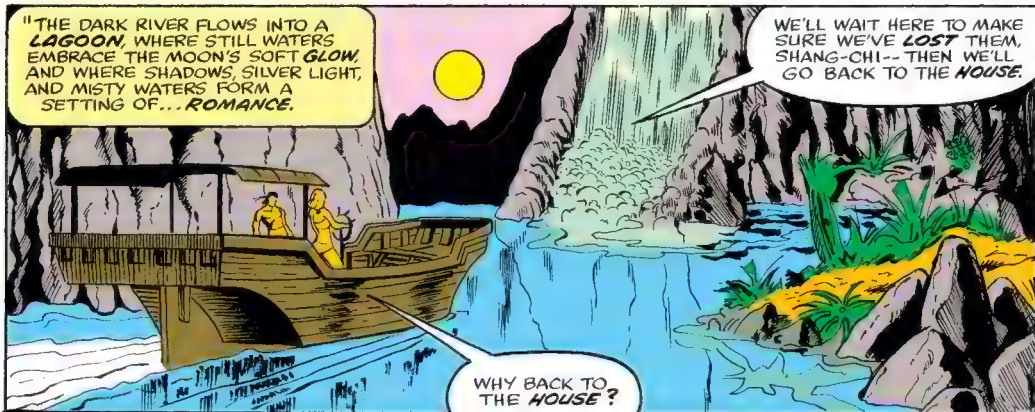
... AND **LEARNING** IF IT **INCLUDES**--



-- **DEATH**.

THEN... YOU GOT IT, **SHEN KUEI**...?

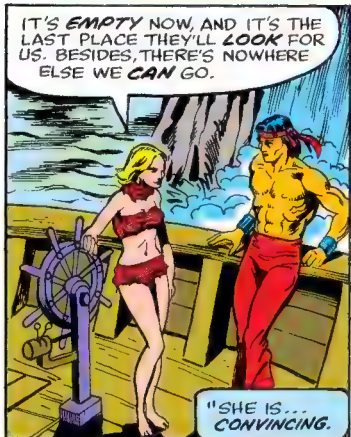




"THE DARK RIVER FLOWS INTO A LAGOON, WHERE STILL WATERS EMBRACE THE MOON'S SOFT GLOW, AND WHERE SHADOWS, SILVER LIGHT, AND MISTY WATERS FORM A SETTING OF... ROMANCE."

WE'LL WAIT HERE TO MAKE SURE WE'VE **LOST** THEM, SHANG-CHI-- THEN WE'LL GO BACK TO THE **HOUSE**.

WHY BACK TO THE **HOUSE**?



IT'S **EMPTY** NOW, AND IT'S THE LAST PLACE THEY'LL **LOOK** FOR US. BESIDES, THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE WE **CAN** GO.

"SHE IS... **CONVINCING**."



THE WOUNDS ON YOUR **BACK**...?

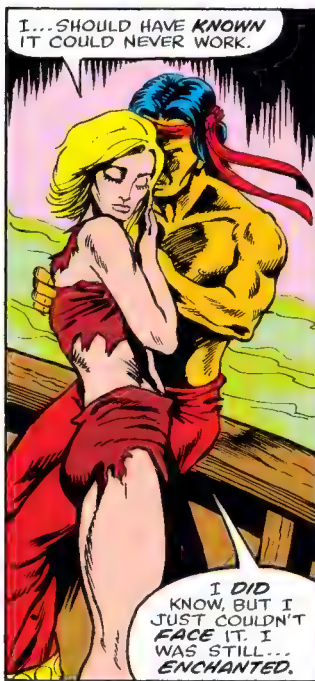
SORE... BUT LET'S JUST **REST** NOW, UNTIL **FIRST** LIGHT.



"YES... A **ROMANTIC** SETTING."

I FEEL SO... **CONFUSED**, SHANG-CHI... DON'T KNOW **HOW** I FEEL.

WHAT **HAPPENED** BETWEEN YOU AND SHEN KUEI?



I... SHOULD HAVE **KNOWN** IT COULD NEVER WORK.

I **DID** KNOW, BUT I JUST COULDN'T **FACE** IT. I WAS STILL... **ENCHANTED**.



HOW DID YOU KNOW? BECAUSE SHEN KUEI IS **CHINESE** AND YOU ARE--?

NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT. IT WAS BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T **LISTEN** TO ME. THE ONLY THING HE COULD "**HEAR**" WAS...

...THE **KNIFE**.



"HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN **LOVE**... NOT **TRUE** LOVE. HE BELIEVED ONLY IN THAT **KNIFE**..."

BELIEVE ME, SHEN KUEI-- TELL ME TO LAY DOWN THE **KNIFE**!

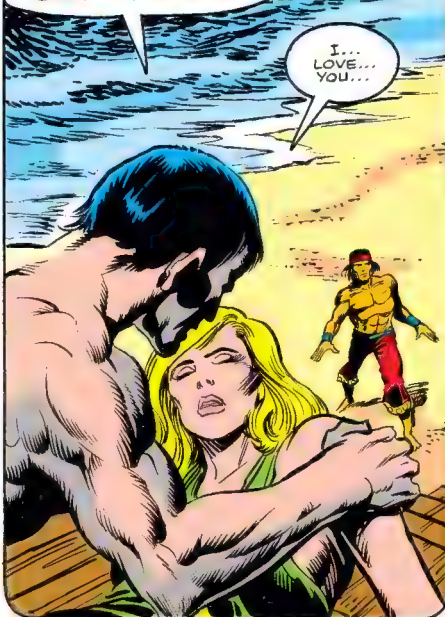
BELIEVE IN MY **LOVE**--OR WITNESS MY **DEATH**!

"IF HE COULDN'T LOVE ME... WITHOUT SEEING MY BLOOD... THEN HOW MUCH LONGER COULD IT LAST? HOW MUCH LONGER COULD I BLEED FOR HIM?"



"I WOULD HAVE DIED FOR HIM--GLADLY-- BUT I COULDN'T KEEP BLEEDING FOR HIM, OVER AND OVER AGAIN... DYING IN LITTLE PIECES... EACH TIME HE FELT HIS SMALL DOUBTS."

FORGIVE ME, JULIETTE-- I BELIEVE YOU NOW...



I... LOVE... YOU...

I CAN STILL FEEL THE SCAR, SHANG-CHI. IT'S A SCAR THAT WILL NEVER HEAL-- THAT JUST KEEPS... GROWING.

BUT THAT WAS ALL BEFORE THE FACT-- BEFORE I DISCOVERED THAT SHEN WAS AGAIN INVOLVED WITH THE COMMUNIST CHINESE... IN SOMETHING EVIL.



IT JUST MADE MY DECISION TO INTERCEPT THE SMUGGLING SHIP-- A LITTLE... EASIER.

THEN, OF COURSE, THERE WAS PAVANE... AND THAT KILLED IT FOR GOOD... EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS ALREADY LONG DEAD.



AND NOW... WELL, I NEED SOMETHING... SOMEONE... SOMETHING GOOD, TO CANCEL OUT-- OR AT LEAST MAKE ME FORGET-- THE BAD...

...THE FEELING OF LOVING SOMETHING... THAT DOESN'T DESERVE LOVE.

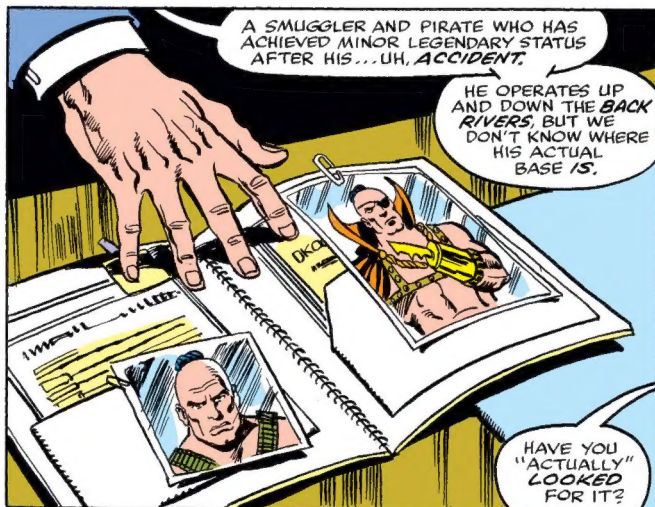
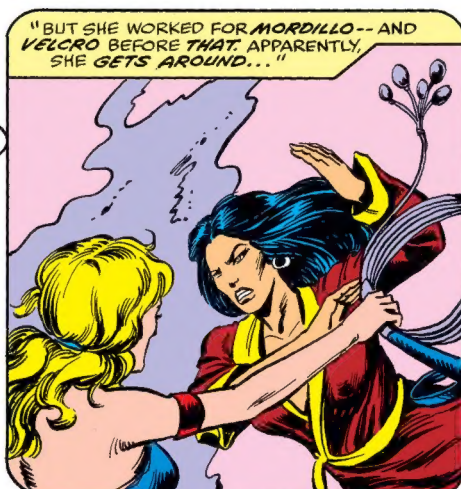
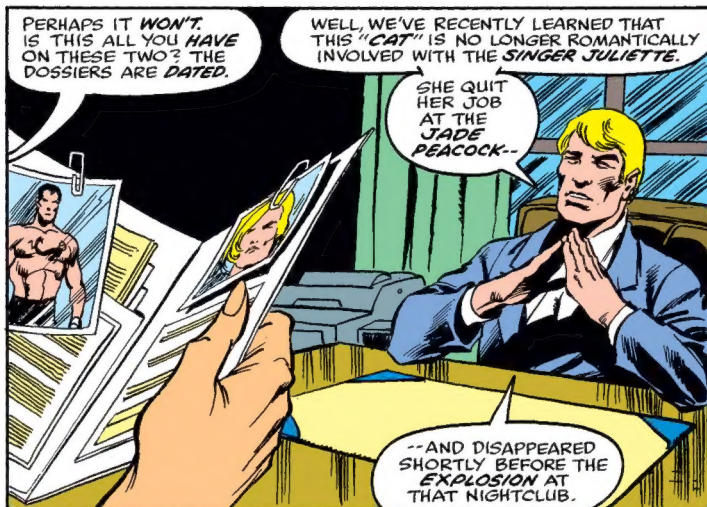
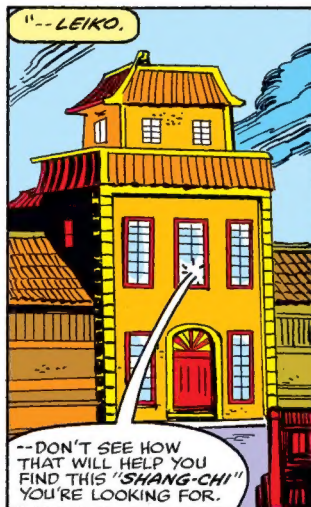


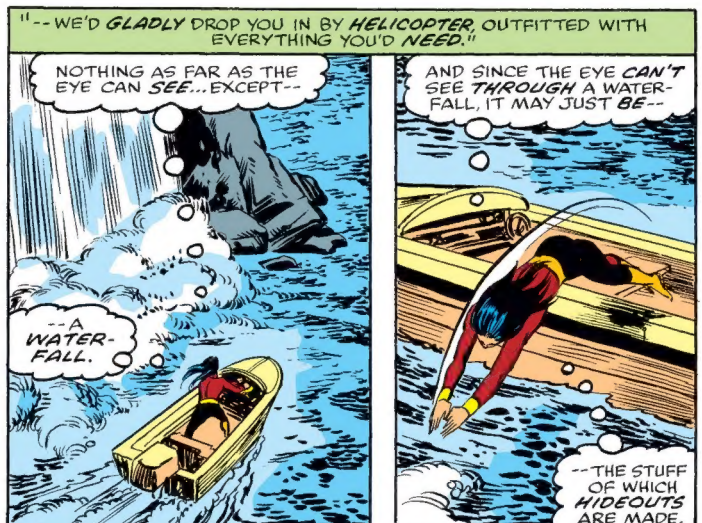
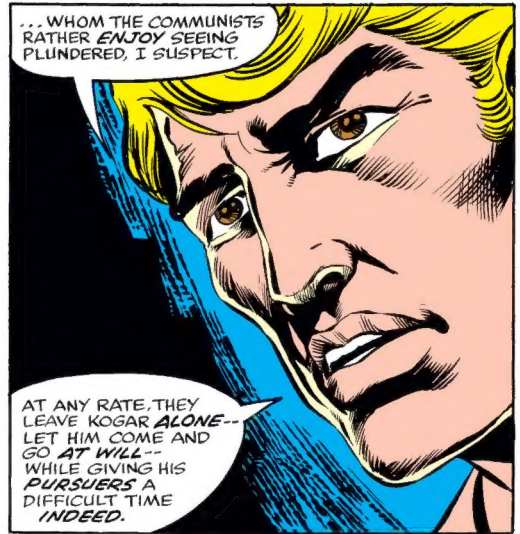
"SHE HAS REACHED OUT..."

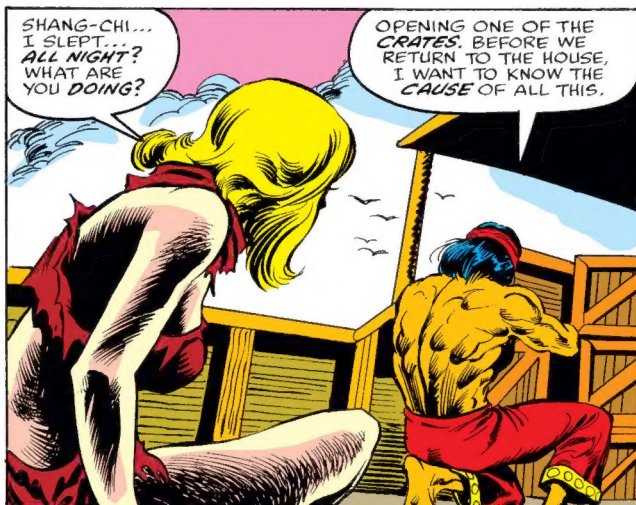
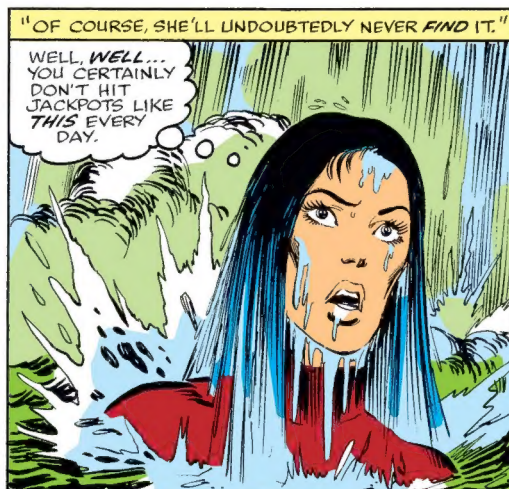
"SHE HAS TOUCHED ME..."

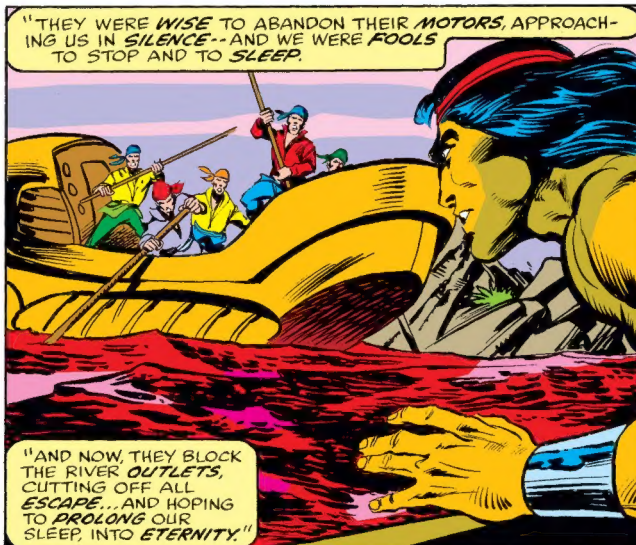
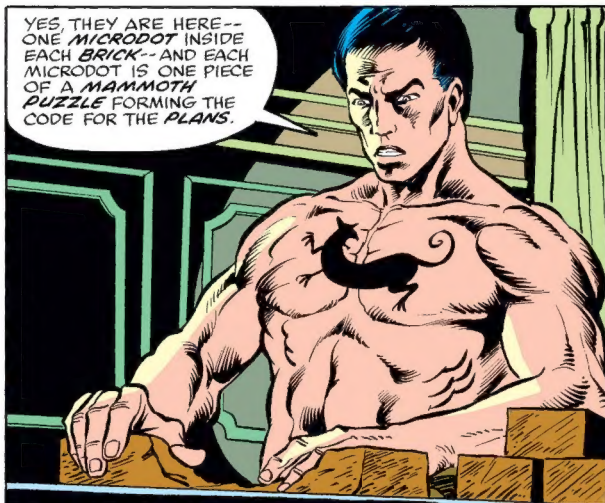
"AND NOW, HER LIPS PARTED AND SOFTLY TREMBLING, SHE WAITS. I DO NOT WANT TO TURN AWAY FROM THIS, BUT... I CANNOT FORGET--"











NEXT ISSUE: THE BEGINNING OF THE END-- **DARK ENCOUNTERS!**